SONS of the RICH in POLITICS

Deserting Polo and the Hunting Field, Many Well Born American Young Men, Following English Precedent Are Serving Their Country in Trying to Solve Public Problems of the Day

Theodore Douglas Robinson

Senator Franklin D. Roosevelt

Charles S. Whitman
Photo by Hollinger & Co.

Rhinelander Waldo
Police Commissioner
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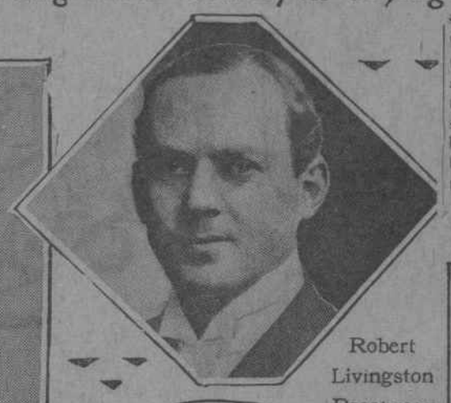
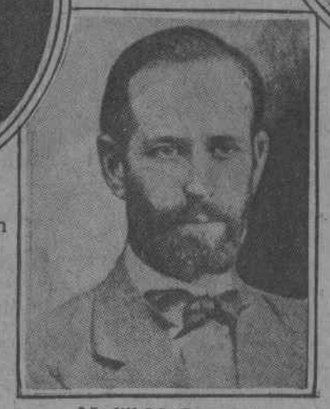


Robert Livingston Beeckman

Joseph Medill Patterson

Magistrate Frederic Kernochan



Medill McCormick

Judge Franklin C. Hoyt
Photo by Rochlitz

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WHEN the rich young man in America turns to politics a large part of the world wonders, a small part admires and another part suspects him. Why should a young man with all the easy avenues of pleasure and profit open to him choose the thorny path of politics? Participation in politics is not, in this country, an inherited obligation, or it has not been so heretofore. The son of a millionnaire or a member of a family of social pre-eminence has not felt it incumbent upon him to participate in the affairs of government, nor has it been deemed expedient for him to do so.

In comparison with the highly rated "plain citizen," the man of wealth or social position has usually been regarded as an intruder in politics.

Years ago a rich young man, William Waldorf Astor, made an earnest effort to break into politics, but as a result of his bitter experience he expatriated himself. Later his kinsman, John Jacob Astor, made a political start, but got no further than a limited honorary position. Cornelius Vanderbilt, although he had a disinheritance in his favor, made no great progress, nor did Harry Payne Whitney.

A generation seems to be coming to the fore now, however, which despises the handicap of inherited wealth and patrician ties and proposes to take a hand in politics. Perhaps a part of it is due to the preaching of Theodore Roosevelt, who, as a young man, had no great wealth, but was not of the class from which the politicians in America were usually recruited.

One of those who took it to heart was his nephew, Theodore Douglas Robinson, who has this winter rented a house in Albany, where he proposes to study practical politics at short range with as much assiduity as if he were in college studying for an academic degree. Mr. Robinson soon after his graduation from Harvard married his cousin, Helen Roosevelt, whose mother was an Astor, and is heiress to a great fortune, and went to live on a beautiful ancestral estate in Herkimer county. His environment and the conditions under which he lived were more like those of an English country gentleman than usually fall to the lot of a young American. He was not content with the ease and pleasures that such existence entailed and soon began to take an active interest in political conditions.

Is Not Professional Politician.

In 1910 he made an effort to wrest the Congressional nomination in his district from the machine candidate, who had the approval of Vice President Sherman, and he made a good fight for a new and untried man.

"I have never cared very much for a business career," replied Mr. Robinson by way of explanation in answering the question "Why did you enter politics?" "In fact, I have always been interested in public affairs, and when I was asked by republicans in Herkimer county last year to be a candidate for Congress to help defeat Mr. Strobel as leader I was glad to take advantage of the offer.

"Don't misunderstand me. I don't want to be a professional politician. I want to serve the public if the public will let me. I have the inclination to hold public office and to fight the political battles incident to it, realizing very well that a man is foolish to undertake anything of that kind unless he has some means independent of what is allowed him, for example, in the salary of an Assemblyman."

The new Assemblyman is every inch a fighter. With all the visible signs of a young American of means and education, he is democratic in his manners and talks as one who is more willing to learn than to teach.

He has rented a large house within a block of the Capitol and is apparently prepared to entertain his colleagues and friends during what promises to be a lively legislative season. It is not unlikely that his residence may be the headquarters of Assemblymen holding similar views in regard to legislation or for the promotion of certain party policies. On all questions of this kind, however, Mr. Robinson is silent.

He has taken no stand on the Speakership question pending in the Assembly and acts and talks as if it would be improper for him, a new Assemblyman, to air his views on this or any other question affecting the organization of the House.

"Yes, I asked my uncle, Theodore Roosevelt, for advice before I concluded to go into politics," he resumed. "Some people might think that his counsel would not be very sound, but I believe it is, and so I went to him when the subject first entered my mind. He advised me to go into the new field if I was so inclined. He told me many other things which it is unnecessary to repeat at this time."

"Do you expect to make politics your life work?" Mr. Robinson was asked.

"Well, now," he answered slowly, indicating a great deal of amusement, "no matter how I reply to that question I should think there is danger of my position being misunderstood. We all know how uncertain politics is. The people, after a brief trial, might turn me down or I might change my mind concerning what I now believe can be done in public office. So far as I know now, I should be glad to make it my life work if I am permitted."

"What do you expect to accomplish for the public as an Assemblyman?"

"I shall support any legislation that will make it easier for the voters to be really represented. My brief experience tells me that they are not represented in the Legislature except here and there and by accident."

"Do you expect to continue your battle against bossism and stand-pattism as an Assemblyman?" Mr. Robinson was asked to-day.

Wants Direct Primaries.

"I shall be for all measures that will give the voters more control of their party affairs and against all bills or policies intended to deny them that right," he replied. "That probably answers your question. I am not an insurgent for the sake of 'insurging,' but for what it will accomplish in making ours a truly representative government. I believe that the bosses, the stand-patters, the Old Guard republicans, or whatever you choose to call them, are hostile to this idea of letting the voters rule their party affairs."

"Do you believe that the republicans can elect their candidate for Governor next year?"

"I certainly do, but I think the candidate should be a man who has been actively engaged on one side or the other of what may be called the two factions of republicanism. Undoubtedly he ought to be in sympathy with progress, but should not have been embittered in the squabbles we have been having.

"I see that State Chairman Barnes is insisting upon what he calls a conservative for Governor and that President Taft be a candidate on a conservative platform. I don't think New York State republicans are all of his kind of conservatives any more than they are all progressives. It isn't fair for our leaders to insist upon nominees or platforms at this time committed to either extreme."

Mr. Robinson was asked to indicate what kind of legislation he was interested in as illustrating his ideas of progress, and he replied that an improved direct primary law seemed to him important.

"I want to see a genuine direct primaries law enacted before we hold the March primaries," said he. "I don't believe in all of these obstructions set up by machine men in the way of the voters. I am in favor of making it easy for them to express their will in the nomination of candidates and selection of the men who are to represent them in their party organization.

"If they are considered competent to elect their public officials they are surely fit to elect their delegates to conventions without being almost forced to vote for a set of men picked out by a few party bosses.

"My experience thus far has been that you can't do much in politics without running up against bossism in some form, and the elimination of bossism seems to be a growing issue in both political parties."

Assemblyman-elect Robinson declared that he was prepared to join hands with either republicans or democrats in the Legislature to carry out what he considered a progressive programme.

He said he hadn't made the fight against Strobel for the sake of being elected to the Assembly, although he considered the office a great honor.

Mr. Robinson speaks quietly and yet as one having convictions which he would like to see translated into law. He has prominent features, black hair, large eyes and wears spectacles and shows a family resemblance to the former President.

He talks as if he were a believer in the gospel of hard work. When seen by a reporter for the HERALD he had just finished sending out a notice to all of the republican voters in the rural sections of his county urging them to enroll before January 2, the limit set by the new primary law for enrollment by mail in the country districts. Mr. Robinson has made a careful study of the election laws and has evidently made up his mind that eternal vigilance, as the late David B. Hill used to render it, "is the price of being on top in politics."

A double cousin of Theodore Douglas Robinson, although not in the first degree, is a member of the other political party, but like his cousin opposed to the machine—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who married his cousin, a daughter of Elliott Roosevelt, brother of the former President. He is a son of the late James Roosevelt, vice president of the Delaware and Hudson Company, and was born at Hyde Park, Dutchess county, where he still lives. He was in Harvard with Theodore Douglas Robinson, was managing editor of The Crimson and president of his class in his senior year. After being graduated from the Columbia Law School he practised his profession and entered political life apparently as the result of an accident.

The democrats in his Senatorial district were hard put to it to get a candidate in the normally republican district.

Young Roosevelt was urged to accept the nomination. He did so, and made bossism the issue in a whirlwind campaign and was elected.

During the campaign people were continually asking him if he was related to the former President, and he said he could hardly tell whether it helped or injured him to admit the relationship. In the Senate it was soon seen that there was a man of force to be reckoned with in the new Senator from Dutchess county, despite his youth and lack of political experience. When the opposition to the election of Mr. Sheehan to the United States Senate crystallized Mr. Roosevelt became the leader of the insurgents. This, it was said at the time, would kill his chances for a renomination, but his friends say that the enforced retirement of such a man would be of short duration and that having had a taste of political life a man of his mettle is sure to come back for more.

In New York city, scions of some of the oldest families have been getting into politics and apparently like the game as well as their brothers do polo or hunting.

The head of the Police Department, Rhinelander Waldo, is a young man who might have gone in for cotillions had he been so minded, but instead he entered the army at the age of twenty-two, soon after leaving college, as a second lieutenant in the Seventeenth Infantry and saw service in the Philippines, where he became Captain of Scouts. He was only back three months when he learned of the vacancy of the first deputyship in the Police Department, applied for the position and got it. Later he reorganized the police at the Catskill aqueduct and in January, 1910, became Fire Commissioner. During the last year he was made Police Commissioner.

Unbiased by Social Influence.

Mr. Waldo is a great horseman and a crack shot. He belongs to the Union, Army and Navy, Riding and Athletic clubs.

Judge Frederick Kernochan is a member of a family that has long taken a prominent part in New York society and society looked upon it as a joke when "Freddy" went in for politics. He was educated at the exclusive private school St. Mark's, Southborough, Mass.; graduated from Yale University, where he was a member of the Skull and Bones Society, and from the Columbia Law School. Like many other young men of fashion, he served in the Spanish-American War. His first political position was as deputy assistant District Attorney. As a city Magistrate, elected as a Tammany candidate, he has been unbiased by social influences of any sort. He married, in 1910, Miss Elizabeth Lawrence Howland, of an old New York family.

Judge Kernochan is a member of the Knickerbocker and Manhattan clubs, the Alpha Kappa Epsilon and a director in the Probation Association. Apparently he is well content to have cast in his lot with the public and political activities of New York city.

Of an old Knickerbocker family, Cortlandt Nicoll had much the same kind of education as Judge Kernochan; his school was St. Paul's, however, instead of St. Mark's, and his university Princeton instead of Yale. After his graduation from college, in 1903, he studied in Germany and later was graduated from the New York Law School. He was one of the incorporators of the New York County Lawyers' Association, is a member of the Union, New York Yacht and Princeton clubs, of the American Geographical Society and of Squadron A. Last spring he was married to Miss Iona Page.

Mr. Nicoll is now serving his second term as Alderman, having been elected as a republican after a stiff fight.

One of the measures that appeal strongly to the public is the one that he has advocated for the lowering of taxicab fares. Mr. Nicoll was unable, under the last board, to get the ordinance out of committee and on the floor of the board for action. "The taxicabs and other vehicles for hire," he said, "are operating under an ordinance adopted by the city at some time in the remote past, when cabs and coaches were used only for funerals and frolics. It permits a charge of $1 a mile. Some of the taxicab companies make a minimum charge of eighty cents for the first mile and fifty cents for each additional mile. The taxicab companies say that this is the lowest rate under which the business can be made profitable."

The Taxicab Law.

Mr. Nicoll does not question the figures which the companies' books show in proof of their small profits, but insists that the present conditions should be changed so that there would be only one class of public vehicles instead of the two that we now have. At present there are public cabs which can stand at the public stands and we have the specially licensed cabs which can stand in front of hotels and clubs, but cannot go on the public stands.

The companies operating the taxicabs pay enormous rentals for the privilege of standing in front of the hotels, one hotel having received $25,000 a year for the rental of the city's street. The persons who use the taxicabs pay for that, it being estimated that the rental adds ten per cent to the fare of the person who hires a taxicab, or, which is the same thing, ten per cent to the maintenance of the service.

Mr. Nicoll's plan is to compel the taxicabs to meet conditions imposed by the Mayor's Bureau of Licenses and permit them after passing that test to go anywhere, thus making a great saving in dead mileage. For instance, if a taxicab took a passenger from the Grand Central Station to Twenty-third street he could stop on the way back at the Holland House or the Waldorf for a fare, if there were a call from one of those stands. This he cannot do now.

The present law makes the entrance of every theatre a cab stand for fifteen minutes before the close of the entertainment, but none of the taxicabs that belong to special stands can go to a public stand. They are, therefore, debarred.

Mr. Nicoll's ordinance provides for a maximum rate for motor vehicles of thirty cents for the first half mile and ten cents for each additional third of a mile. For two seated hansoms the maximum is forty cents and for coaches sixty cents.

A young man whose name is in the Social Register presides over the Children's Court. He was educated at St. Paul's School and Columbia University and is a grandson of the late Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase. He was one of the youngest men to be appointed to a Judgeship. He received his appointment in 1908 and soon after, one of the officers of the court seeing him for the first time mistook him for one of the youthful offenders. There were fifty applicants for the place when Mayor McClellan selected the young man to fill it. He is considered an authority on the problems of children's courts, and in speaking of the needs of the children's courts, and in speaking of the New York court places that of a new building first; next the necessity for probation officers paid by the court, with whom the present volunteer workers could effectively co-operate.

Judge Hoyt also wants a fuller system of records, so that the Judge could see at a glance what the child's environment is, and also as helps for the student of criminology and sociology. He favors the establishment of a clinic for feeble minded children and the establishment of a better system of local authority, so that the Judge of the Children's Court will have assistants throughout the city to study the physical and mental conditions of the child offender and what is responsible for the breeding of crime.

District Attorney Whitman is usually accredited to the "silk stocking" element of society. He made a record for himself as a good all around athlete and scholar in Amherst and began his political career during the Strong administration in the District Attorney's office. He has been a Judge in the Court of General Sessions and has made a record as District Attorney.

By birth and social affiliations Robert Livingston Beekman belongs to New York, being descended from two of the most famous families of the Dutch Colonial period. He acquired wealth on the Stock Exchange and married the only daughter of the late General Samuel Thomas, who inherited a large fortune from him.

Three years ago Mr. Beeckman went in for politics. Having made his Newport residence his legal home, he became a candidate for the Rhode Island Assembly, and was elected and re-elected the following year. Last autumn he was elected to the State Senate and has been favorably spoken of as the next candidate for Governor of that State.

Mrs. Beekman shares her husband's political ambitions and gave a pre-election dinner last fall, as well as one afterward to celebrate his success.

In Chicago the rich young man has been emulating the New York tendency. Medill McCormick is one of the most conspicuous examples of the young man who wants to have his share in shaping the government. His cousin, Medill Patterson, has shown similar impatience with the conventional part allotted the rich young man and has held office in the municipal government and manifested great interest in local politics.

What the Doctors Say About African Sleeping Sickness.

From the European Edition of the Herald.

RECENT diplomatic negotiations have given renewed interest to an affection which prevails in an endemic condition throughout Central Africa, its ravages being particularly marked in Uganda, Gambia, the Congo and in the region of the great lakes. It is known as "Trypanosoma gambiense," likewise as "hypnosia," or sleeping sickness.

Till recent years, that is, at a time when the costal regions of Africa were almost the only parts visited, no great importance was attached to this disease. Since the interior of the Dark Continent has been opened up greater attention has been paid to the ravages which it causes not only among the native population, but also among Europeans.

The disease is characterized by the presence in the blood of a parasite, denoted "Trypanosoma," which is found in the ganglia, chiefly in those of the neck and the maxillary region, as well as in the cephalo-rachidian liquid.

It is now known that the affection is conveyed from an ailing to a healthy man by the bite of a fly. Although it is not definitely settled whether in the transmission of the disease it is a question of simple mechanical transport by the proboscis of the fly or if the parasite undergoes its evolution in the proboscis or stomach, yet one fact is certain, namely, that the Glossinae, commonly known as the tsetse fly, is the propagator of the disease.

The species termed Glossina palpalis is perhaps the only one capable of transmitting sleeping sickness.

The tsetse is found in low lying, hot, humid and marshy localities. They have their abode in a narrow strip of soil bordering some river, and they rarely leave this zone either to go inland or toward the water. They are never found on extensive plains. They form vast swarms in the brushwood and their flight gives rise to a peculiar noise, to which they owe their name tsetse. They do not bite at night and they are deterred by nauseous odors. Both sexes of these insects are aggressive, this fact distinguishing them from mosquitoes, of which the female alone bite.

The sleeping sickness may be divided into two distinct periods. In the first the disease is in a latent condition, and it is excessively difficult to recognize it if one is not in a position to attempt to identify the trypanosoma. The fever at this period is remittent and regular. It lasts from two to three days and is followed by a more or less long apyretic period. The temperature rarely reaches 40 degrees. Cent. It ordinarily varies between 38 degrees and 39 degrees.

Sometimes the part bitten by the fly develops keen irritation with redness and itching. This redness may become general over the whole body and produces large patches, which are less visible in colored races. It is not rare to observe at the same time a partial puffiness of the face, neck and feet.

The cervical ganglia are frequently attacked. They become extremely painful. The intelligence of the patient becomes enfeebled and his strength declines at the same time.

The irregularity of the fever, the ganglionary swelling, the redness of the skin, sometimes the swelling of a region of the body, a condition of weakness and anaemia are the principal symptoms of this first period, which may be regarded as constituting the disease.

During the second period, in addition to the signs indicated above, there is a condition of somnolence continually increasing as the sickness progresses. The patient sleeps twenty hours out of twenty-four and he never rouses from this sleep except when he is vigorously shaken. The digestive functions, however, proceed normally. He eats and drinks when compelled to do so, and if he is persuaded to swallow some food it is digested and assimilated, thus enabling the patient to preserve a relatively good physique.

But the patient soon commences to succumb. Convulsive, epileptic and choreic crises, fits of insanity and hallucinations may terminate the ailment if the patient does not succumb to some other concurrent malady, such as pneumonia and dysentery.

Sleeping sickness attacks both sexes with equal frequency and is not peculiar to the black race, as was originally supposed. Numerous cases have already been observed among whites who have resided for some time in Central Africa. It occurs most often in adults, chiefly among the lower class of blacks engaged in agricultural operations.

Sleeping sickness is curable during the first stage of the disease. But in the second period the prognostic is always fatal. Epidemics of trypanosoma are excessively deadly. Entire villages in Senegal have been depopulated by its ravages. In Uganda, where this affection is endemic, the population of certain districts, according to Manson, has fallen from three hundred thousand to ten thousand.

The best treatment for trypanosoma would certainly be the employment of an immunizing and curative serum, but the serotherapic experiments have always proved a failure, at least in the case of man. Failing this means, recourse has been had to various medicaments which up to the present have not given very encouraging results.

Arsenious acid has been used with partial success. Meta-arsenic anilide atoxyl, in aqueous solution of from ten to twenty per cent and in doses of from five to ten centigrammes every two days, gradually increasing the dose until no more can be supported, appears to be at the present time the favorite medicament. Its methodical use is said to get rid of the trypanosoma from the blood. Unfortunately when used in strong doses and for a long period atoxyl sets up serious ocular troubles. Its use must therefore be carefully supervised and great care taken.

In view of the powerlessness of therapeutics, every effort should be made to prevent the evil. The body must be protected from the bites of the tsetse fly by means of mosquito veils, gloves and gaiters. Patients suffering from sleeping sickness must be isolated, and, as far as possible in the infected regions, all journeys should be made at night, for the tsetse does not bite in the night.

New York's Latest Craze---Freak Dancing.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.)

who specializes in these activities, claims the turkey trot as originally the grotesque creation of a ranchman in New Mexico. In other cases the originals have probably been Oriental dances which have gone through a process of graduation till, in final and amended form, some of them are being taught for ballroom purposes in social circles.

"They reached Americanization in San Francisco, and here their sensational features were promptly seized upon and adapted to couples and round dances.

From that they began a slow upward course and they became more qualified in successive stages of development, until they have at present an actual vogue."

In the exhibition form of dancing society has not been behind. Lady Constance Richardson a couple of years ago first introduced this form of entertainment. She was an exponent of the classical society dance, performed with bare feet, a certain scantiness of drapery and the display of much pink skin. This school of dancing came probably as an evolution from Loie Fuller's serpentine dance. Later the more classical idea developed with Maud Allan and Isadora Duncan. Lady Richardson was a follower of this school, and her pink feet added to the gayety of many drawing rooms. Society takes its bare feet without a quiver now. It has flocked to Mr. Edmund Russell's studio and to Mrs. Gouraud's, where sublimated Eastern dances have been the order of the afternoon or evening.

Native dancers did the Hawaiian hulahula, which pleased society, and the "Shower of Gold" was the triumph at one of Mr. Russell's Thursdays. Here Beatrice Lovera, with seven dresses of gold filminess, successively and with the most technical nicety shed each till there was practically only the dancer left.

A stage dancer in the Dance of the Seven Veils achieved the same artistic frankness at Mrs. Gouraud's amid much newspaper acclaim. The Princess Sita Devi even outdistanced these records of thrill with her Cobra Dance, in which the gentle reptile affectionately twined itself about its mistress' form to the strains of orchestral enlivenment.

And the Baroness von Groyss, when entertaining society, lets loose her Philippine retainers at odd moments, where they dance the Honolulu Kui, or the head dance of the Igorottes, with generous displays of grass and brown body.

Altogether it is to dance. And if one wants to be in vogue one had better be unusual and "rag" dances as people used to "rag" airs. For it's all the fashion now.

Hudson Bay Company's "Beaver."

IN the old days of the Hudson Bay Company trade with the Indians was conducted wholly by barter. The standard of value was a beaver skin, and guns, knives, powder, lead and blankets were exchanged for furs, without recourse to coin. In time, however, the trade produced its own currency, a stick or tally known as the "made-beaver."

Some flavor of the old romance is preserved in the Canadian gold coins, issued but a few years ago, known as the beaver, the half beaver and the double beaver. In a way they may be said to equal in value our eagle, half eagle and double eagle.

Auction by Candle.

SALE by candle, a method of auction that was once very common through England and Scotland, still survives in the north of England.

A "judge" and his secretary take their seats at the appointed place, attended by a crier and a servant provided with a box of tiny candles, each of which will burn one minute. At a given signal a candle is lighted, and the bidding for the object offered begins. At each offer from a would-be purchaser the burning candle is extinguished and a new one lighted, and the article is disposed of only when a candle burns itself out ere a fresh bid has been announced by the crier.